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Message Text

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73
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 IO-10 SAJ-01 /080 W
---------- 063372
R 151630Z JUL 75
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1173
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1370

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, UY, GW
SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF URUGUAYAN HONORARY CONSUL

REF: BONN 10907

1. FRENCH MISSION HAS INFORMED US THAT INFO RECEIVED BY THEIR POLAD FROM SENAT HEAD OF CHANCELLERY HERZ CLEARLY INDICATED THAT KLINGBEIL WAS NOT CURRENTLY SUBJECT OF ANY JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION OR PROSECUTION. FRENCH ARE DOUBTFUL AS TO WHETHER EVEN GOVMAYOR COULD PROVIDE ADDITONAL DETAILS THAT WOULD ASSIST IN FORMULATION OF ALLIED DECISION. BRITISH MISSION, FOR THEIR PART, INFORMS US THAT THEIR EMB IN BONN HAS REFERRED MATTER TO LONDON AND WOULD PREFER THAT NO FURTHER APPROACH BE MADE TO SENAT AT PRESENT. HENCE THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE PROSPECT OF MOVEMENT ON QUESTION HERE IN NEAR FUTURE, ESPECIALLY AS BOTH SCHUETZ AND HERZ ARE PRESENTLY ON LEAVE.

2. BRITISH MISSION, INCIDENTALLY, HAS RECEIVED FROM "RELIABLE SOURCE" BACKGROUND INFO ON KLINGBEIL NOMINATION THAT MAY BE OF VALUE. BEFORE DEPARTING BERLIN IN LATE 1973, URUGUAYAN (CAREER) CONSUL GENERAL
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REPORTEDLY OFFERED POST OF HONORARY URUGUAYAN CONSUL

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TO ONE BERNHARD AHLEMANN, MEMBER OF BOARD OF BERLINER
DISCONTO BANK, WHO ACCEPTED NOMINATION. URUGUAYAN
GOVT, HOWEVER, CHOSE INSTEAD TO NOMINATE KLINGBEIL,
WHO WAS BEST KNOWN TO SENAT AS PRINCIPAL OF
BUILDING FIRM SUSPECTED OF SHADY PRACTICES IN CONSTRUC-
TION WORK ON SITE OF FORMER SPORTPALAST. WHILE THIS
WAS ONE REASON FOR SENAT OPPOSITION TO KLINGBEIL,
SOURCE NOTED THAT LATTER IN ANY EVENT DID NOT MEET
CERTAIN CRITERIA OF FRG'S REGULATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT
OF HONORARY CONSULS, NAMELY THAT HE WAS NOT FULLY
CONVERSANT WITH COUNTRY HE WAS TO REPRESENT (A CRITERION
THAT, AT LEAST IN BERLIN, WOULD SEEM TO BE OBSERVED
MORE IN THE BREACH) AND THAT HE WAS NOT WELL-KNOWN
AND HIGHLY REGARDED IN CITY IN WHICH HE WOULD ACT.
SUSPICION EXISTS ALSO, GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH
AHLEMANN ACCEPTED NOMINATION BUT WAS THEN TURNED DOWN,
THAT KLINGBEIL PURCHASED OFFICE FOR UNUSUALLY HEALTHY
SUM. (AHLEMANN, INCIDENTALLY, IS NOW HONORARY MEXICAN
CONSUL IN BERLIN.) GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NOMINATION, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USBERL01370
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750244-0928
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750753/aaaabvqt.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BONN 10907
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NOMINATION OF URUGUAYAN HONORARY CONSUL
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, UY, GE, (KLINGBEIL)
To: BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006